

HONOURS FOR ACHIEVEMENT



EVERYBODY loves a winner, and the world wants to hear all about it. Alyn Haskey gave a non-stop succession of interviews to Press and radio reporters after winning the Award.

Rise in Spastics Pool sub

THE weekly subscription to the Spastics Pool was raised from 8p to 10p on March 6. This is the first rise in five years, and the decision has been taken in an effort to keep pace with inflation.

The Spastics Pool is the biggest single contributor to the funds of The Spastics Society, and every week donates £30,000 to help support the Society's schools, centres, and welfare services for spastics and their families. Though the millions of Pool supporters have the chance of winning big prizes every week, their chief interest comes from the knowledge that their money is helping the disabled.

Mr Ken Long, the Managing Director of Top Ten Promotions Ltd, the Pool promoters, told Spastics News: 'The last increase in real terms was in January 1969, from 1s to 1s 6d, though on decimilisation in 1971, the 7½p (1s 6d) was rounded up to 8p. It has remained at that figure since—a period of five years—and how many other commodities can you think of that have not risen in that time?

'The increase is modest by today's standards, I feel, and yet it will help so much those who are least able to help themselves.'

Mr Long pointed out that the Society's 'housekeeping' bill had risen by 25 per cent in the past year due to inflation, and unless more money could be raised, fewer spastics would be helped.

Now more than ever, the Spastics Pool needs new members. If you are not a member already—please join. If you don't know your local collector, write to the Spastics Pool, Westmorland House, PO Box No 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS99 7QX.



SECOND prizewinner Edward Castle receives his medal and words of commendation from Sir Geoffrey Jackson. Sir Geoffrey was particularly impressed by the fact that Edward rides five miles to work each day by bicycle. Also in the picture is Mrs Joyce Smith, a vice-chairman of The Spastics Society.

'Thank you' party for young helpers

A VERY severely handicapped spastic couple wanted to say a special 'thank you' to the children of two local schools. So Mr Donald Wyles and his wife Susan, threw a party for the children at their home in Warburton Terrace, Walthamstow, East London.

The youngsters are from Highams Park School, Leyton, and William Morris Senior High School. They have helped Mr and Mrs Wyles by doing the shopping, taking them out and helping with the housework. The couple threw a separate party for younger children who come to see them.

Picture courtesy of London and Essex Guardian Newspapers Ltd.



Society's annual awards

THE Spastics Society's annual Achievement of the Year Award has gone to Alyn Haskey, a 23-year-old York University student, who has fought severe handicaps with a courage and determination 'which are enough to make you weep,' declared one of the judges on finals day.

In spite of being unable to walk, feed, or dress himself, Alyn is studying sociology, modern European history and German at the University with the ambition of becoming a tutor. He is no stranger to success as he has won the Duke of Edinburgh's bronze, silver and gold awards, and numerous prizes competing in games and sports for the disabled.

Decision

Alyn thoroughly deserved the Achievement Award, but as usual the judges were faced with a terrible decision when it came to choosing the winners. The nine spastic men and women who had won through to the finals—held in London on March 3—had all achieved so much, in spite of the most appalling difficulties and handicaps. But after a long discussion on each finalist's story, they awarded the silver cup and £250 first



prize to Alyn, the second prize to Edward Castle, aged 38, of St Norbert Road, Brockley, London SE, and the third to Raymond Jordan, aged 55, of Monyhull Hospital, Kings Norton, Birmingham.

All are remarkable men. For example, doctors said Edward Castle would never walk at all when he was born. But he was taking his first steps by the time he was three.

'Mugged'

He overcame the loss of an eye during an accident in his first job after leaving school, to get another job. Some time later he was savagely attacked, and left lying on the pavement. This resulted in a stroke which left him paralysed down the right side.

Before long he was looking for another job, and found one in a school for handicapped children, and now he designs and makes furniture for the handicapped. Some of his ideas have been exported.

Third prize winner, Raymond Jordan, is very severely handicapped indeed. He has virtually no use of his arms or legs and no speech. Forty years ago, aged 14, he was

Cont on Page 8.

Fanciers swoop on pigeon auction

THOUSANDS of pigeon fanciers will be 'homing in' on Finsbury Town Hall, on Saturday, March 13. That's the date of The Spastics Society's 10th Annual Pigeon Sale.

The event has raised thousands of pounds for spastics in the past. Birds have been contributed by all kinds of people from all over Britain, including the Queen.

This year's sale gets under way at 2 pm, although the birds can be viewed from 11.30 in the morning. The man organising the event this year is Mr C. W. Miller, from Wrexham in Wales.

A special prize for Stephen

THANKS to the selfless and untiring efforts of 14-year-old Steven Foster, from North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset, an elderly lady can once more enjoy the pleasures of her garden.

The lady is Steven's next door neighbour. She lives alone, and the garden was just too much for her to manage. It was completely overgrown with couch grass and weeds three feet high.

Despite his handicaps—he doesn't have the proper use of his right hand, side and leg—Steven decided to tackle the problem. After getting the go ahead from the old lady, he set to work to clear up the garden, giving up his weekends and school holidays.

Using his good hand he cut down all the weeds with a bill hook, and burned them. Then he dug up all the roots and turned over the soil. After that he made a hard core path with stones and old bricks he was given by local workmen.

Now he has planted the garden with vegetables, and continues to keep it clean and tidy. Not only is it a pleasure for the old lady to see her garden, but she can look forward to plenty of fresh food this summer as well.

Steven's efforts were recognised at the Society's Achievement Award presentations, when he received the Director's Special Prize. In the picture above he is shown receiving the prize—a watch—from the Director, Mr James Loring.

Ball for WASPS

A BALL organised by Salisbury and District Spastics Society was attended by more than 300 guests. Proceeds were donated to the WASPS appeal (Wiltshire appeal for severely physically handicapped school leavers).

Darts marathon was a top flight way of raising money

A TEAM of top flight darts players failed to beat the world record for a 'million and one down' match on February 7. But they succeeded in raising a tidy sum of money for the Skegness and District Spastics Society.

The eight strong team embarked on the marathon match, following a challenge from a team of army sergeants in Hong Kong, who claim the world record. They missed out by three hours, 20 minutes and 25 seconds, but discovered that towards the

end of the match their scoring average improved considerably.

Undaunted, the Skegness men will have another go later this year to crack the 13 hours, 32 minutes, 45 seconds record. The marathon was organised by Ken Jones, Chairman of the Skegness and District Spastics Society after reading about the challenge in *The Sun* newspaper.

He decided that it would provide an excellent opportunity to raise money towards the Society's holiday bungalow at Winthorpe, due to open later this year.



Sylvia's art in stitches

SYLVIA Richards, who has been a resident at the Society's Princess Marina Centre in Buckinghamshire for 21 years, shows one of her tapestry pictures in an exhibition at the centre. The art show was organised by the Friends of the Spastics at Princess Marina Centre and more than 60 local artists took part. They donated 25 per cent commission to the Friends, who expect to have raised more than £50 in this way. A further £175 was raised at a bazaar run in conjunction with the exhibition.

Proceeds from the two events will help to buy a new ambulance to be used by the 57 residents at the centre.

Picture by courtesy of Slough Observer.

The way to lift disabled

A NEW film has been issued giving instructions on how to move and lift disabled people with ease and dignity. It was made by the Multiple Sclerosis Society, in association with publishers Woodhead-Faulkner, but would be useful to non-medical helpers who have to care for people with any kind of severe motor disability, either at home or in a centre.

The film is based on the book *Handling the Handicapped*, published by Woodhead-Faulkner about a year ago, and shows many of the lifting techniques described there. It makes a useful supplement to the book because the medium of film can convey more clearly than still photographs the actual sequence of movements required.

Moving and Lifting the Disabled Person is a 16 mm film made by Gateway Film Productions and runs for 12½ minutes.

It can be purchased from Woodhead-Faulkner Ltd, 7 Rose Crescent, Cambridge, CB2 3LL, at a cost of £95 or hired from either Concord Films Council Ltd, Nacton, Ipswich, Suffolk, or Guild Sound and Vision Ltd, Woodston House, Oundle Road, Peterborough PE2 9PZ. The hire charge is £5 per day and £1.25 for each subsequent day.

Holidays, hobbies, and wise use of leisure ...

THE Spastics Society's Recreational Services Department was set up more than a year ago, to look into ways of expanding and improving leisure opportunities for people whose physical handicaps severely restrict their social outlets. The Head of Recreational Services, Bill Hargreaves, talks to Spastics News about the department's work and its plans for the future.

'So many spastics unemployed'

'The department was set up in September 1974. The main object is to give a motivation for life to people who are limited in their social outlets, whether they are in centres, or living at home.

'We are interested in helping spastic people with all kinds of handicaps, but particularly the severely handicapped. There are more spastics out of work than employed. And therefore it is terribly important that these people's interests should be served.

'Many lack the sort of social life, social opportunities and leisure activities which Mr and Mrs Everyman enjoy. It is to develop opportunities in this direction, and motivating

Helping handicapped to get more out of life

handicapped people to think of things other than themselves that our work is directed. We are tackling the problem in several different ways.

'Firstly we are expanding the holiday programme. We are trying to provide a choice of holidays pretty nearly equal to that which the average person enjoys. This ranges from very cheap holidays in England at around £15 to luxury overseas holidays costing more than £80.

'We feel that it is essential that the more severely disabled people should be foremost in our planning. So many people in wheelchairs have missed out in the past.

Not upset

'I think the fact that our holidays have worked so well in the past has done a lot to change attitudes. Hotel proprietors are realising that a properly organised group of handicapped people does not upset other holidaymakers, or the running of the hotel.

'Our holiday leaders ensure that those on holiday are cared for in the right way. And we tell the handicapped holidaymakers: "You are in a goldfish bowl. If you go to a hotel it will certainly have an

impact. But we will be judged on our own behaviour."

'Our helpers go out of their way to see that non-handicapped holidaymakers do not feel that they ought to be helping the handicapped. We make sure that we fit in with the rules of the hotel we are staying at, and don't ask for special privileges. Non-handicapped holidaymakers might find it distressing to watch a person with feeding problems in a hotel restaurant, so we plan the seating arrangements so that this doesn't happen.

'We must have compassion for the non-handicapped, and help them to be at ease with the handicapped.

'Because of our approach we have emerged as ordinary holidaymakers, and not as a nuisance, which some people thought we might be. We have had nothing but letters of appreciation from the hotels we have visited. We have used one five times, and they have asked us to come back again next year.

'Thames Valley police cadets have given us first class help in conducting holidays over the years. It all began several years ago when I received a letter asking if the cadets could help out in any way. The cadets are seconded to us on full pay. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them, and often they ask to come back on future occasions.

'Gradually we are building up a body of people who really know how to help handicapped people in the right way.

'The department is still giving support to the Association of '62 Clubs. But it has become emancipated to the extent that it is virtually independent.

Local groups

'This leaves the two recreation officers, David Branche, based at Bootle, and Denise Wright, in London, more free to develop recreational pursuits for people who are not "clubbable." It also gives them more chance to help the local groups in the development of social outlets for the severely handicapped.

'The recreation officers will be spending more of their time helping individuals. They will

find out if a person has an interest, which perhaps he or she cannot follow because of their disability. If this is the case then they find ways and means of overcoming the problems.

'Secondly there are probably many more severely handicapped people who—perhaps because of communication difficulties—find it difficult to take part in any activity. Many of these may spend most of their spare time watching the television.

'If this is the case, it is important that they should get the most out of their television sets. For example, if a person likes watching rugby football on television, at least we can help him to understand the game. We can help by getting a professional rugby player to come and talk to the person about the game, so that the next time he watches he really understands what it is all about.

Pilot course

'We have just begun recreational courses for the severely handicapped. The pilot course was held at Churchtown Farm in Cornwall a little while ago. Those taking part were able to try such things as photography, pond, shore and field studies, bird watching, angling, and so on.

'But the important thing is to make sure that if a person develops an interest at one of these courses, it is adequately followed up when they return to their homes. For example, if someone becomes keen on photography, then it is only natural that they should wish to join the camera club in their own area.

'The Society's local groups can play a big part here. We hope very much that they can carry out much of the follow-up work by introducing severely handicapped people to their local angling clubs, sailing clubs or whatever. We can stimulate an interest, but we haven't the resources to follow up activities throughout the country.

'I hope this will add a personal touch to the work of local volunteer workers. In the past they have been involved almost entirely in fund raising. But our scheme will give people the opportunity to help spastics on a person-to-person basis.'

Cookery corner

THERE are certain words and expressions in the English language which are becoming something of a bore. Take 'saving' for example.

Then there's 'cost of living'. Anyone who has to do the shopping understands about that, so hearing and reading of it gets rather monotonous.

Forget saving and cost of living, though, and instead turn it all into a weekly game. Hold your very own 'You versus Them' competition, with the prize being any money that is left in the purse at the end of each shopping week going into the bank/money box/building society/Post Office.

Cheaper cuts of meat are just as nutritious as prime pieces, although they have to be cooked more slowly, and there is the bonus of getting superb gravy in stews and casseroles. Eggs are plentiful and will, with a bit of help from you, turn into tasty dishes at low cost.

And use your common sense by making the most of leftovers. Here is one recipe which does that with cold, cooked root crops:—



CHEESE AND VEGETABLE PASTIES (Serves 4-6)

Ingredients:

12oz short-crust pastry, 1 carrot, cooked and diced
½lb mixed root vegetables, cooked and diced
8oz Dunlop cheese, diced, 1 teaspoon mixed herbs seasoning
1 British egg, beaten
Watercress

Method: Roll out the pastry and cut out six saucer-sized circles. Mix together vegetables, cheese, herbs and seasoning. Divide between pastry circles, damp edges of pastry and draw together to crimp. Place on a baking sheet, brush with egg and bake 400 deg F, Mark 6, for 25 minutes, until golden brown. Serve hot or cold garnished with watercress.

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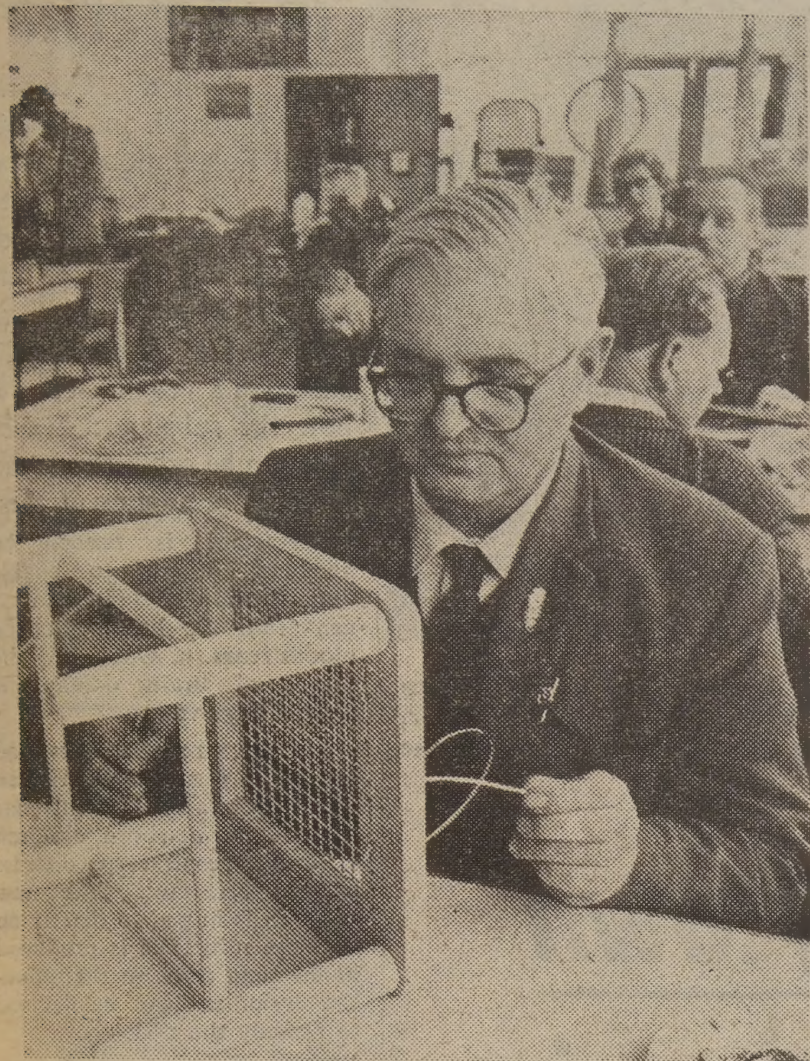
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Grange craftworkers revive tradition

They make new impression on antique market



ALEC STADDON practises his cane work using a stool frame which the workshop purchases from suppliers of craft work.



PATIENCE is a very necessary virtue when it comes to weaving a new cane bottom for a chair, as Mary Moon knows only too well.

WHATEVER happened to the wicker bottomed chair? Remember those woven cane seats which imprinted an intricate pattern on the posterior? They seem to be fast disappearing lately. And it is not surprising when you consider that craftsmen now charge about £20 to remake the seat of an ordinary dining room chair.

But residents at The Spastics Society's satellite centre The Grange, at Kelvedon, Essex, are keeping the old craft of cane weaving alive. They are operating a thriving concern, restoring antique furniture.

Customers come from far and wide and include many antique dealers. They travel from as far away as London to have their frayed and tattered wicker-work made whole again.

Some of the furniture which turns up at The Grange workshop is quite valuable. A pair of gilded Louis XV chairs were immediately sent off to Sotheby's for auction after undergoing repairs there. And the residents even re-seated an 18th century settle on which Queen Victoria is alleged to have rested her royal bustle.

'We've been doing this kind of work for several years now,' said Don Butlin who supervises the workshop. 'We thought it was something that the residents could do, so we sent off for some instruction books.'

'We are entirely self taught. You can learn anything from books. After a bit of practice we felt confident enough to take on some outside work. Now we get as much as we can handle.'

Shortly before Christmas we had 17 chairs lined up waiting to be repaired. Mostly they come from the antique

trade, but some come from private customers as well. They must like our work, because everything we get comes from personal recommendation.'

The Grange price for renewing a chair seat is only £6, much lower than the trade price. But the residents have time on their side. They are not pressured by the problems of having to make a profit. On average it takes about five days to repair one seat.

'Most of these chairs would disappear if it wasn't for our workshop,' said Mr Butlin. 'People can't afford to pay the full price to have them restored. What usually happens is that a piece of plywood is nailed over the seat, and the whole thing is painted white.'

'When a chair comes here we strip it down to the bare wood. And we reglue any joints which have come loose before starting on the wicker work.'

'The most important thing, of course, is what the residents get out of it. It gives them a tremendous amount of satisfaction to see the finished product. We always make sure that the customers know which of our employees has worked on their particular piece of furniture. It somehow adds that little personal touch which makes the job more interesting.'

The chairs are repaired with shredded rattan cane, the kind of creeper which appears in Tarzan films. This can be bought from suppliers of craft materials.

Not all the jobs are straightforward, and some of the chairs are pretty peculiarly shaped. But experience has taught the residents how to cope with any problems which crop up.



ALFRED COCKLEDGE putting new life into an antique chair. 'My folks didn't believe I could do work like this,' he said.

They develop what is called 'a feel' for the cane.

One of the residents involved in wicker work is Alfred Cockledge. 'When my folks visited me they just didn't believe I could do this sort of work,' he said. 'But I work a five-day week here, starting at nine and going on till 4.30 pm.'

'I like this work very much. After I've finished a chair I've got something to look at and I can say, "I've done that." It gives you a lot of incentive.'

Of course wicker work is not the only work done in The Grange workshop. They re-upholster furniture there as well. And they are just about to embark on repairing rush seated chairs as well.

Other residents make jewellery from tumbled pebbles picked up from the beaches during holidays. There is art work, soft toy making, rug making and a host of other activities. In fact the Grange has developed a fascinating range of cottage industries during the 17 years of its existence.

And there's one thing you can be sure of where the repair of cane seated chairs is concerned. The bottom is not likely to fall out of the market.



RON DOWSETT gets to grips with a length of rattan cane to bring a Victorian antique back to life.

CHILTERN HOUSE FAMILY HELP UNIT

THE Spastics Society's Chiltern House Family Help Unit offers short term care for severely handicapped people aged 14 and upwards. This specialised service can help to relieve strain on the whole family, and provide an enjoyable holiday break.

Details are obtainable from the Matron, Chiltern House Family Help Unit, Hill Top Road, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 46641.



DOOR mats are assembled at the workshop. It was a job which kept Robin Archer (right) absorbed for a long time. Working with him is George Stenning.



SOFT toys are also manufactured in the Grange workshop, and they sell well. Hard at work on them are Moyra Osbond (left) and Peggy Salter.



ANDREW CHRISTIE, 15, of Harlesden, Middlesex, demonstrates his train set to Roger Jefcoate, left, consultant assessor on technical aids, and Jim Lefeuvre, Designer of the train set.



CYRIL BOGOD, left, of the British Amateur Electronics club, shows Eric Booth, an "Active" committee member, some of the mobility aids he has developed for the disabled.

Adults in Toytown

Experts pool ideas on serious side of playtime

AN Open Workshop at the London College of Furniture gave engineers and technicians, therapists, parents and teachers an opportunity to pool their ideas about toys for severely handicapped children.

The workshop was organised by 'Active,' a new voluntary group which aims to help severely handicapped children share in learning and play activities which their able-bodied contemporaries take for granted. Chairman of the day's programme was Roger Jefcoate, the Consultant Assessor on Technical Aids.

An exhibition of items developed by the 'Active' group and others, enabled those taking part in the workshop to see what has already been achieved. Most of these toys and learning aids are already in use by children with little or no hand control who have never been able to play with conventional toys.

Andrew Christie, 15, a severely handicapped athetoid from Harlesden, Middlesex, demonstrated a train set which had been designed for him by Jim Lefeuvre of Norwich. Andrew, who is a pupil at Martindale House special school,

Hounslow, operates the trains by remote control, using a 'unicorn' attached to his head.

An encouraging example of co-operation was shown in a display of adaptations carried out to help physically handicapped children by mentally handicapped people at a training centre in Greenwich. Employees at the centre are taught how to adapt the controls of standard toys so that they can be operated by disabled children and the finished product is then sold to individual parents or special schools. A somersaulting dog, remote-controlled bulldozer and a tricycle are among the items marketed by the centre.

Another member of the 'Active' group attending the workshop was Peter Toft, a lecturer at the Woolwich College engineering department for special schools. Among the items developed by the college are a specially adapted racing car in which a child can sit and propel himself by means of electric power, and the Charlton Tutor, a teaching machine which flashes words and pictures onto a screen at different speeds and is now in use at many London special schools for the handicapped. Mr Toft also showed an electronic noughts and crosses game designed in his department. This

enables very severely handicapped children to take part in competitive games. Woolwich College students have also adapted a standard 'Roller Coaster' toy, bought at Woolworths, so that it can be operated by different types of switches. One of these, a 'suck and blow' model, was specially designed to help an autistic child.

The Milton Keynes and District Society, one of our newest groups, is very electronically-minded, and members attending the workshop showed a toy organ and ambulance which has been developed locally.

Students of the London College of Furniture also showed examples of toys and special furniture which they had designed for various special schools including the Watford Spastics Centre and the Western Cerebral Palsy Centre.

BELOW: Peter Toft, of the Woolwich College engineering department for special schools and his son Richard, right, play an electronic noughts and crosses game developed at the college. The game enables severely handicapped children to compete on an equal footing with the able-bodied.



More cash for research in America

THE United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, of New York, has handed over more than £80,000 for research into one of the possible causes of cerebral palsy. The research will endeavour to determine how the substance surfactant can be produced in the lungs of premature babies.

Surfactant is needed by newborn infants to enable them to transfer sufficient oxygen from the lungs into the bloodstream. One of the causes of brain damage is oxygen deprivation.

Already research carried out as a result of a United Cerebral Palsy Grant has shown that newborn children suffering respiratory distress lacked surfactant. The new research is hoped to determine how the substance is produced in the lung cells, so that effective treatment can be devised to remedy the deficiency.

A spokesman for UCP says about 60 per cent of children who have cerebral palsy were born prematurely. Since 1955, the Foundation has spent about £7 million on research into the causes and prevention of the condition.

Integration will be the main topic

INTEGRATION will be the theme of the Spastics Society's Midlands Regional Conference, which is being held at the University of Leicester on Sunday, April 4.

Mr Norman Clegg, Principal of the North Nottinghamshire College of Further Education will speak on 'Integration in education.' He will be followed by Dr Michael Cotton, Warden at the Society's Churchtown Farm Centre, who will outline the ways in which the centre can help integration.

'Pre-school Integration' is the subject of Mrs Joan Head, of the Child Development Research Unit, at Nottingham University. And Miss Kathy Williams, Administrator of the Habinteg Housing Association, will talk on 'Integrated accommodation.'

The Spastics Society's Director of Resources, Mr Derek Lancaster-Gaye, will give a talk entitled 'Integration and the Society,' after which there will be a short discussion. There will also be a general forum under the chairmanship of Lord Crawshaw, Conference chairman, and one of the speakers will be Mr Geoffrey Arter, Director of Top Ten Promotions.

Help for Hastings

EAST Sussex Social Services Committee has agreed to a grant of £1,000 to the Hastings Spastics Society. This is to help with the costs of the day centre for handicapped children and adults run by the Centre.



PETER RICKARD, manager of Tunnel Avenue industrial training centre at Greenwich, South East London, shows the adaptations which handicapped workers at his centre have carried out to help more severely disabled children.

NEW IDEA FROM IBM

IBM, the electric typewriter people, are offering another service to spastics which could save them pounds.

Already IBM United Kingdom Ltd supply cheap reconditioned typewriters to disabled people, and each year about 150 spastics benefit from the scheme through The Spastics Society.

Now the company is offering a special maintenance contract. This will cost £3.95

annually for the standard machine or £4.65 for an Executive typewriter. This represents quite a saving, when you consider that the same service to commercial organisations costs £27.

A company spokesman said: 'By taking out this agreement you will help to avoid unexpected expense and ensure that your machine is kept in the best possible condition.'

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SN M3

W. A. Mitchell, Society Supplies Officer relates a saga of Intervention Land

Psst! Want a scrape off the EEC butter mountain?

ONCE upon a time — as all good stories start — Europe had a 'mountain of butter'. Not that anyone ever saw it but newspapers said it was there, a double embarrassment to EEC nations, for only the Soviet Union was big enough to take the 'butter mountain' of 200,000 tons and EEC Commissioners were reluctant to sell agricultural surplus to Moscow.

In this welter of controversy of three years ago two British arguments were presented: 'Why not issue some of this butter to old age pensioners?' was one point of view. Another was that charities could make good use of some of this 'butter mountain' at a reduced price.

While it is bad manners to look a gift horse in the teeth, the cynical of my profession feel there is often a great gulf between promise and performance. Those in charge of residential establishments express their doubts even more forcefully. But a rough calculation showed that

the scheme offered material savings and we felt we ought to try it. In the event, the Minister of Agriculture announced (on November 14, 1973) that arrangements would be made to enable British charities—non-profit making organisations—to obtain butter at a cheap rate.

A load of official forms had to be filled in, but finally The Spastics Society joined the queue, a total of 14 of our bigger schools and centres, with a sanctioned take-off of 3,374 pounds of butter in each quarter, a saving of, nearly enough, £900 per year. All honour to those pioneers!

There were difficulties, but by the summer of 1974 the

scheme was running reasonably well.

The Housekeeper of Thomas Delarue School said: We have used 308 pounds of the 400 pounds allocation. Ordering is simple; the keeping properties of the butter are excellent; the flavour is good; and we can produce much better quality cakes with the use of butter.

At this stage we thought we might do even better by seeking allocations for all the Society's schools and centres. Just as the paperwork was being extended the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce (with headquarters at Reading) dropped a bombshell: no more 'intervention' butter is available!

Since then the European Community has built up a 40,000 tons surplus of skim milk powder, now nearly two years old and in danger of going bad. Once more the same story is repeated. The EEC is to sell 20,000 tons of skim milk powder to the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries at £160 per ton compared with a cost of £302 a ton to EEC users.

And there is still a surplus of butter! The Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce broke a two years' silence by writing to all non-profit making organisations (which include The Spastics Society) stating:—

'There are no stocks of "intervention" butter in UK

but intervention stocks can be obtained from other Member States (of EEC) and would attract a further subsidy on importation.'

The former ration of 'cheap' butter remains unchanged at 5½ ounces per head per week based on a quarter of 13 weeks. The chief difficulty, however, in the revised scheme is that a residential unit must find a packer willing to supply from stocks he has to buy overseas. Big establishments—say a hospital of 1,000 beds, or so—will find little difficulty in securing an importer. To provide a supplier for establishments smaller than this may well prove a problem.

However, we now start over again!



MRS MARGARET MEEKS of Highfield Road, Romford, Essex, receives a Spastics Pool dividend cheque for £3,333 from Tony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, of The Spastics Society at the Society's headquarters.

News about the Spastics Pool

Grateful thanks to collectors

THANKS to the generosity of collectors in all parts of the United Kingdom, Collectors Club was once again able to offer similar amounts as last year to each of the Dr Barnardo's residential schools that have handicapped children in their care.

All the donations were most gratefully acknowledged by the staff of the schools who were well aware that their cheques came as a result of personal donations to the Toys for Children Fund from members of the collector force.

The 1976 Fund is already off to a flying start because a number of seals were received too late for inclusion in the 1975 shareout. It is hoped that through the generosity of the Fund's many friends, our next donations may be a little bigger and so help overcome the ever rising costs of providing the good things for the children who rely upon our help.

The schools who received our donations were: Princess Margaret School at Taunton, Jan Tetley Memorial School near Harrogate, The New Mossford School on the outskirts of East London, Celtness House, near Wishaw, Scotland.

Membership drive

A NEW incentive scheme offering seals was introduced for collectors in February. By enrolling sufficient new members into the Spastics Pool to ensure the 'Paid' total on April 24 is at least five more than the 'A' total for February 7 1976, collectors will receive no less than 50 seals for each new membership.

A leaflet explaining the incentive scheme has been circulated.



More where that comes from . . .

ABOVE: Laurie Watterson, Spastics Pool supervisor on the Isle of Man, presents a cheque for £400 to George Jolley, headmaster of the special school at Glencruthery Road, Douglas. The money raised by Spastics Pool collectors and supporters will provide holidays for local handicapped children.

'This isn't the end of the story,' commented Laurie, 'We intend to organise other fund raising activities to ensure that as many handicapped children as possible will have a holiday in 1976.'

Picture shows from left to right: George Corlett, collector IM60/4, Laurie Watterson, George Jolley and Wilf Craine, collector IM60/18.



BERNARD BRESSLAW, on the stage in 'Mother Goose' at the New Theatre, Hull, hands over a Spastics Pool second dividend cheque for £1,226.72 to Mr D. Pearce, of Longhill Estate, Hull. Arrangements for the presentation were made by YO83 Mr Fred Burbage.

Medal for man who helps others

MR JACK FOSTER, 59, a spastic living at the West Surrey Cheshire Home at Godalming, is to receive the Medal of Merit from the Chief Scout for long service. Mr Foster has been involved with the Scouting movement since 1924 when he helped run a hospital troop in Bristol.

Now he belongs to the BP Guild, an association of former scouts. The guild is dedicated to helping people by voluntary work and fund raising.

Mr Foster has spent a lot of time fund raising for the Cheshire home where he has lived since April 1963. He always helps with the organisation of the annual fete.

On one occasion when the kitchen staff fell sick he even cooked all the meals for the home.

Disabled suffer in jobs crisis

UNEMPLOYMENT figures are now well over the million mark, and likely to go on rising. But as usual it is the disabled who suffer most.

Figures computed by former union leader Jack Dash for his local Disablement Employment Group show that a total of 1,249,278 men and women are out of work, while the total of disabled jobless are 65,369. Looking at it in percentage terms, 4.8 per cent of the working population is unemployed, compared with 11.75 per cent of the disabled working population. In other words the percentage of disabled needing jobs is two and a half times of the able bodied.

The figures were quoted in 'Contact' the magazine of the Central Council for the Disabled.

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A home of their own for famous four?

From drab ward to dream bungalow — if cash can be raised

A PROJECT which could completely revolutionise the pattern of care for patients in Britain's hospitals for mentally handicapped people is under-way at St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham. And the men most closely involved are the four who rose to fame after writing the book 'Tongue Tied,' later made into a BBC television film.

The book told the life story of Joey Deacon a severely handicapped spastic who has been resident at the hospital since childhood. Joey dictated the story through his friend Ernie Roberts — last year's Achievement Award winner — who is the only person who can really understand him. His speech is virtually unintelligible to anyone else. Two other patients at the hospital, Tom Blackburn and Michael Sangster, helped bring the book to fruition.

New world

Since the publication of the book and the screening of the television film, a whole new world has opened up for the four friends. Now they receive letters from all over the world, as well as many visitors. Last year they travelled abroad for the first time, holidaying in Switzerland and Paris. And they were invited to spend a week at a farmhouse in Devon by a family who were full of admiration after reading the book. Now they are anticipating a trip to Amsterdam following the publication of a Dutch edition of the book. It has also been published in Sweden and America.

But they are still living in a drab and overcrowded ward of the hospital which houses more than 1,600 patients. There are more than 40 patients in their ward, which is—to say the least—uninspiring. Uniform iron bedsteads are lined

up in regimental rows, too close together for comfort.

The four do have a section of an adjoining conservatory which they can call their own. It contains their radiogram, souvenirs from their holidays, photographs, and so on. And there is a table where they work.

But it is very cold in winter. And when it rains, water drips through the conservatory roof.

The new project is to provide them with a small bungalow within the hospital grounds, where they can live virtually independently. Of course there would be a telephone for staff to be summoned in case of emergency,

Independence

'As a team they are self supportive,' said Dr Geoffrey Harris, consultant psychiatrist at the hospital. 'They have proved this during their holidays abroad and in Devon. They can take care of all the basic functions such as toileting, eating, getting to bed and so on.'

'With Ernie interpreting Joey, Tom doing the physical work, and Michael helping out, they can manage quite well. They would love to have the greater independence that the bungalow would allow. They are sensible enough to realise that it would be impossible to live outside the hospital because they might need help urgently. But we have plenty of room in the grounds here to accommodate a bungalow.'

What is envisaged is a basic two-roomed bungalow with bathroom, toilet and kitchen facilities. It would, of course, be designed with wheelchair users in mind, with wide swing doors, no steps, easily accessible washbasins and so on.

But the big problem, as with everything these days, is cost. It's been estimated that the building would cost around £16,000. And although the project has been given the official go ahead, with plans

approved, Dr Harris has been told that no financial help will be forthcoming.

Nevertheless a private fund has been started, and so far about £1,000 has been raised, in a little under a year. Most of this has come from well wishers who have either read the book or seen the film. Now it is hoped to step up the fundraising campaign, to get the project under way as soon as possible.

There has been opposition to the scheme from people who feel that Joey and his pals are getting all the goodies while other patients get none. But Dr Harris discounts these objections.

'If you try to move everyone forward at the same pace you get absolutely nowhere,' he said. 'Someone has to pioneer the way.'

'I believe that the bungalow scheme fits in with the way forward for caring for mentally handicapped people. Once the first bungalow is built we can think about providing more, and so establish a kind of village community within the grounds of the hospital. This has been done by voluntary organisations, but so far it has not been tried within the Health Service.'

'Up till now the various pressure groups concerned with mentally handicapped people have measured the success of an institution by the number of people who get out, to live in the community. I now wonder if this is right, and if we aren't getting to the stage where we are pushing people out regardless of whether it gives them a better life or not.'

'It doesn't always improve the quality of a person's life to live outside the institution. You don't become a part of a



THREE of the famous four celebrating at the Society's Achievement Award presentations last year, with the previous winner Linda Berwick. Ernie Roberts—who won the award—holds the cup which his pals Joey Deacon and Tom Blackburn, standing, helped him to win.

community just because you live there. For example, if you happen to live in the middle of Beckenham High Street, it doesn't necessarily follow that your neighbour is going to invite you round, or take you down to the local bingo. Often a person can be more isolated in the community than within the hospital.

'There will always be a place for hospitals such as St Lawrence's. I'm not saying that it should be maintained as it is now. Of course it's a dreadful place. But if we could set up a village community, then we could move people out of the old buildings, which could then be utilised for recreation halls, physiotherapy rooms and so on.'

Dr Harris sees the bungalow project for the Joey quartet as spear-heading the village idea as a completely new move within the Health Service in caring for the mentally handicapped. And the four are in total agreement with him.

'It would make all the difference to us,' said Ernie. 'Living in this ward is far from ideal. There is no privacy, you just cannot get away from people. We can manage quite well on our own, so long as we have the telephone to call a nurse if Joey gets ill.'

Freedom

'Life here is better than it was,' said Tom Blackburn. 'Once you had to get "town parole" if you wanted to go outside the hospital grounds. You couldn't even go out into the fields around the hospital. Now you can come and go as you please. But the bungalow would give us much more freedom and independence.'

Tom is one of the patients who was encouraged to live outside the hospital. But after a short time he asked to come back. He didn't like living

without his friends, and after living most of his life there, St Lawrence's is his home.

Following their success, life is very busy for Joey, Ernie, Tom and Michael. There are dozens of letters to answer, and people to see. They have since written a novelette about the marriage hopes and aspirations of a severely handicapped spastic. And they are now contemplating short stories.

They have come a long way since the all-important day when they decided to write Joey's life story. But there is still a long way to go before their living conditions reach anything like an ideal standard.

PETER COOK.

'Milestone' cheque from York group

THE York and District Spastics Group is one of several organisations to contribute towards the cost of equipment for a new building in York to provide training for mentally handicapped people.

The contributions, totalling £2,000, were described as 'another milestone in the co-operation between voluntary organisations and the local authority,' by the divisional social services officer for North Yorkshire, Mr G. Palmer. The money will pay for special furniture and toilets for the new unit.

Death of Miss Garrow

ONE of the 'great characters' of The Spastics Society's staff died last month. She was Miss Irene Garrow, who was 69.

Known to her friends just as 'Garrow,' she held a job which has special significance for Spastics News subscribers. She worked the machine which addressed all the copies to be despatched by post.

Miss Garrow first joined the Society in 1959. She retired in 1971 but came back after three years to the job she held until her death.

Miss Garrow was buried at Greenwich.



DR GEOFFREY HARRIS with Joey Deacon.

Gift of independence

THE generosity and concern of the Hemel Hempstead Ladies Circle has brought more independence for 21-year-old Keith Masters. They raised nearly £400 to buy him a Bactric Chair.

Now John, who lives at Micklefield Road, Hemel Hempstead, can go out to the shops and visit friends by himself. Before he had to find someone to push him in his wheelchair.

He will also be able to travel to a local college where he is studying for his

'O' levels, because his ambition is to get a job. 'Any sort of office job will do,' he said. 'There is nothing wrong with my brain, just my legs.'

Pictured with Keith, left to right, are the chairman of the Ladies Circle, Michaela Dell, past chairmen Sally Hollands, Ruth Carlton - Ashton, Janice Russell, and vice-chairman Jenny Geddes.

Picture by courtesy of the Hemel Hempstead Gazette.



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Holiday guide for mentally handicapped

WITH the holiday season fast approaching, the problems of where to go become increasingly pressing. It is an even greater problem for mentally handicapped people and their families, who often face rejection by hotels and landladies.

With this in mind, the Cold-east Hospital School at Southampton, has produced a comprehensive list of accommodation where mentally handicapped children and their families are welcomed. The school is part of a large sub-normality hospital.

The list takes the form of a duplicated booklet. It contains addresses and telephone numbers of hotels and boarding houses all over the UK, and there are some overseas addresses. Horse riding organisations are also included. And there is a list of useful publications.

The booklet can be obtained from Coldeast Hospital School, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, Hants.



Mother's gift to hospital ward

MRS EILEEN BROWN, of Wellingborough, Northants, has presented a special 'thank you' present to Ward 4X of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, in the form of an adapted Newton wheelchair.

Mrs Brown's daughter Christine broke her back three years ago but after a period of treatment at Stoke Mandeville she is now able to walk again with the aid of a stick. Mrs Brown decided to show her gratitude by collecting money to help somebody who could not walk at all.

She held jumble sales and raffles to raise the £200 needed, only to find that the cost of the wheelchair had gone up by £70. But

everybody rallied round to help find the extra money and the chair was handed over last month.

The Newton wheelchair is made at The Spastics Society's Meadway Works in Birmingham, and for this particular model Possum Controls Ltd, of Aylesbury, had adapted the electrical hand-control to a switch which can be operated by the user's chin.

Picture shows Kathleen Wells, a patient at the hospital, trying out the chair with (left to right) Christine Brown, Patricia Summers and Eileen Brown.

Picture by courtesy of The Bucks Advertiser, Aylesbury.

'Have wheels: Will Travel' to the Eternal City

ABLE-BODIED students of the Open University go on study tours to Italy, so why not some of the OU's 1,200 disabled students? This was the idea behind a highly successful tour of Rome for 10 wheelchair students and their able-bodied helpers. Undaunted by the cobbled streets and steps at every building, they managed to visit most of the historic monuments and important art treasures of the Eternal City.

Their experiences are described in a newly-published book, **Have Wheels: Will Travel**, a series of essays contributed by most of the disabled students, some of the helpers and the OU tutor accompanying the party. The latter ended up not only giving lectures but pushing wheelchairs herself.

The tour organiser, Valerie Saunders, has written some useful comments on advance planning and 'do's and don'ts' for next time. The book is illustrated by excellent photographs, which combined with the text, help the reader really become acquainted with individual travellers.

A tonic

One of the writers is Mary Bennett, a resident of The Spastics Society's Princess Marina Centre in Buckinghamshire, whose sense of humour and infectious enthusiasm is described by another contributor as 'a tonic to us all.'

Writing of the party's first meeting at the airport, Miss Bennett says: 'To outsiders we probably appeared as a group of handicapped people and their helpers; to each other we were a group of people who had just met and who were bound for Rome, with a keen interest in the wonders of that city.'

The sense of sharing a common enthusiasm for art and history soon cut across any barriers between handicapped and able-bodied. As Valerie Saunders writes 'We rapidly forgot who was disabled and who was not—individuals were just people with their own particular temperaments, quirks and characteristics.'

Several contributors comment on the surprised stares which the party attracted from the Italians, who tend to keep their disabled out of sight. 'The locals could not understand why such a group of people should appear so happy or so obviously interested in what was going on,' writes Geoffrey Watts-Read. 'It says something for the more enlightened treatment of disability in Britain. What seemed surprising to them was, after all, normal holiday behaviour to us.'

More than one Italian had to revise his preconceived ideas about British coldness and reserve after meeting the party, and as Valerie Saunders put it, 'I suppose we were regarded as mini-ambassadors.'

Royalties from the sale of the book will go to a 'Disadvantaged Students' Travel Fund,' set up by the Open University Students Association as a trust to help finance further study tours. The Spastics Society has also made a contribution, towards the cost of the 1976 Rome tour for disabled students.

'Have Wheels: Will Travel' is published by Educational Explorers Ltd at £1.65.

WHERE THEY LIVE IN A CONSTABLE PICTURE



Meldreth's massive jigsaw

A GIANT jigsaw puzzle has been presented to the Society's Meldreth Manor School by pupils of Comberton Village College, Cambridgeshire.

The puzzle, designed by 14-year-old Jeremy New, shows the village college's crest and covers 260 sq ft.

College students were sponsored for each piece of the crest they painted. They raised £56 which will be used to buy speech therapy equipment for the Meldreth children.

Comberton pupils have been visiting the school every week over the past year to help with physiotherapy. They have also organised a party for the Meldreth children, built wheeled trolleys for those who cannot walk, and are planning another sponsored event to help some of their handicapped friends to go on an adventure holiday.

AS art lovers will know, this year marks the bicentenary of the great landscape painter John Constable. By coincidence it also marks the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the Society's first adult residential centre, Drummonds, at Feering, Essex.

Not much of a coincidence except that the old parsonage which stands in the grounds of Drummonds, and which has been converted for staff accommodation, was the subject of an arresting water

colour by Constable.

The picture 'Feering Church and Parsonage' is now on display at the Tate Gallery in London, as part of a special exhibition to mark the bicentenary. Normally its home is the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester.

The picture, was probably made for the Rev W. W. Driffield, Rector of Southchurch, whom Constable visited at Feering in 1814. Now a colour photograph of it is to be acquired by Drummonds, to be displayed there. And a party of residents will be taken to see the painting at the Tate.

Dinghy for disabled at London show

THE specially adapted sailing dinghy for physically handicapped people developed by Mr Emlyn Davies, The Spastics Society's SRO, Wales, is to be given pride of place at the London Dinghy Exhibition. The dinghy, fitted with the unique Sailsafe Seat, will be on display at the Sports Council stand.

The exhibition is being held at Picketts Lock, Edmonton, London, on March 20 and 21.

Mr Davies first demonstrated the Sailsafe Seat last year. It enables handicapped sailors to be winched from one side of the dinghy to another by the crew, while coming about or jibing.

Helping to display the dinghy will be Mr Ken Roberts, who is himself paraplegic, and the only disabled person to become an RYA instructor. Mr Roberts has demonstrated the seat several times, and given it his blessing. He is Chairman of Watersports for the Disabled, an offshoot of the Sports Council.

Their cheery gift



A BOTTLE full of cheer for the Southampton Family Help Unit is collected by Mrs Oriska Cameron, the Society's South East Region Appeals Officer. The bottle contained nearly £75 for the unit, which had been donated by customers at 'The Swallow' public house, Hinkler Road, Southampton.

To celebrate the presentation, made by Mr Harry Bartlett, Secretary of the Swallow Social Club, the pub held a topsy turvey evening. All the men dressed as girls and all the

women as men. The Southampton Family Help Unit provides short term accommodation for spastic youngsters aged two to 16.

Newspaper aids machine appeal

FOLLOWING an appeal in a local newspaper, more than £200 has been raised for an 'Electraid' machine for the Percy Hedley Centre for spastics at Newcastle. The appeal was in the Newcastle Sunday Sun.

A further £400 has been promised and the Centre is well on its way to achieving the appeal target. The machine is a special electric typewriter which provides a means of communication for severely handicapped spastics.

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Achievement Award: the runners-up

AS usual, the Achievement Award judges found great difficulty in coming to a decision. There were so many outstanding achievements to be weighed against varying degrees of disability and, as somebody said, 'They all deserved to win.'

But eventually, as you can read on Page 1, the first three were chosen and the other finalists applauded the judges' decision with unfeigned enthusiasm.

The runners-up each received a commemorative medal and £5 worth of Premium Bonds. Here are their remarkable stories of courage and the will to succeed in spite of enormous difficulties. Yes they all deserved to win. . . .

Robert Pratt, aged 30, City Hospital, Edinburgh.

ROBERT came from a difficult background and after a period of working as a gardener was admitted to a hospital as a patient with a mental disorder. This proved a wrong decision and he was taken out and allowed to return to gardening. While doing this he lived in lodgings and managed to look after himself. His work as gardener was considered so satisfactory that his appointment was made permanent.

He is always very smart, well dressed and courteous. He has achieved his position in life entirely by his own efforts.

John Hawkrige, aged 28, of Butterbowl Gardens, Leeds 12.

JOHN'S hands are awkward and he needs two sticks for walking. For the last seven or eight years he has been employed by HM Inspector of Taxes in Leeds. He has received several promotions and is now in charge of an office of 12 people. Since his teens he has been interested in, and has actively pursued, fishing, fell walking and in recent years sailing. He has climbed Snowdon and Ben Nevis. He recently did a sponsored walk on Seafell Pila and raised over £200 for Larchfield School pool fund. He visits this school once a week and helps the older pupils with hobbies. John is always ready



AS he tucks into his lunch before the judging — with the help of his companion — Alyn Haskey, 23 (second from left), has no idea that he is to win the Achievement Award. Also pictured (from Alyn's left) are Mr Roy Laver, Director of Top Ten Promotions, Mr Tony Frank, Assistant Director, Regions, of the Society, finalist Michael Choche and Mrs Choche, and Mr Geoffrey Arter, Director of Top Ten Promotions.

to accept a challenge and is a very well adjusted and likeable person.

Joanna Hamilton, aged 30, Bleachfield, Heslington, York SDB.

JOANNA has very poor speech, is in a wheelchair and has partial use of one hand. She taught herself to read but her education really only began when she was 12 and went to school. There she did five 'O' levels and three 'A' levels and was accepted by both Essex and York Universities. She chose York and graduated with a good Upper Second Class degree (and a first class mark for her dissertation) in the School of English and Related Literature. After a year she was accepted to do an MA in literary translation at Essex University. This involves an extended piece of translation instead of a thesis. She is translating a French African novel and a publisher is already interested.

Joanna is distinguished by her immense courage and gaiety, and by her capacity for friendship and interest in many things. This has enabled her to live like an able-bodied person. She pioneered York University as a disabled person and has paved the way for other disabled students. At present she is in hospital in Sheffield with hip trouble.

Michael Edric Choche, aged 27, of Hilton Road, Newton Abbot, Devon.

MICHAEL showed great determination from an early age, despite his handicaps. He won the Duke of Edinburgh

silver and gold award. He was head boy at his school and from an early age wanted to be a conservationist. When he left school he attended Plymouth Tec and travelled on the bus from his home. He never complained though frequently he fell off the bus and often broke his thermos. He tried constantly to get a job as a teacher with no success, but never gave up.

Tragedy struck with neuritis, but he fought back. He went for an interview to a school in Torquay. He did not get the job but the Head was so impressed with him he was asked to go on supply teaching.

He did this and eventually he got offered a permanent post. He drove 40 miles a day back and forth to Torquay from Kingsbridge in his Inva car. Michael is now happily married.

Brian East, aged 42, of Wells Close, Ipswich, Suffolk.

BRIAN is of good average intelligence but has poor speech and an unsteady gait, as well as awkward hands. At school with strong willpower and determination he strove to be as good as his able-bodied companions. Brian left school and went to work in his parents' shops. When the office work was cut by more than half, he became redundant. In his fight for independence he went alone to London. He had some speech therapy but still could be

misunderstood easily. His unsteady hands lost him his job.

After many interviews, rejections and disappointments his achievement is that he has found and held down a job as wages, invoices and stock-keeping clerk. He uses an electric typewriter.

Raymond Coulson, aged 28, of Lynmouth Avenue, Abington Vale Estate, Northampton.

RAY is unable to walk, unable to feed himself and his speech is badly affected. In 1964 he took a test to see if he was capable of driving a three wheel invalid car. The examiner told him he would never be able to drive on the road. He would not be beaten, however, and was determined to show he was capable of handling a car. He bought an old car and had it adapted to suit his requirements. After a time he had the chance of buying an AC three wheeler for £200. Through forfeiting many things Ray went ahead and bought it.

Within a short space of time he not only passed his invalid car test but won the disabled drivers rally out of a hundred competitors. He now has a DAF car (modified) and took and passed the normal driving test on January 9, 1976. He also handles a cabin cruiser as well as an able-bodied person. Through sheer dogged determination he gets around and thoroughly enjoys life.

JUDGING 'NO RUBBER STAMPING PERFORMANCE'—Sir Geoffrey

Cont from Page 1.

admitted to a subnormality hospital.

Since then he has learned to communicate by means of a letter board, and now he can type with an electric typewriter. This has enabled him to write his life story.

The judges themselves could easily understand the problems overcome by the finalists, as they themselves have all experienced misfortunes. The Baroness D'Arcy de Knayth, a campaigner for the disabled in the House of Lords, is disabled and uses a wheelchair. So does Danny Hearn, the famous rugby international who broke his back during a match with the All-Blacks. Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the diplomat who was captured by guerillas in South America and held captive for nearly eight months, was an example of bravery to Britain. Miss Joan Shenton, the TV and radio personality was left disabled after an accident in Spain, and James Cameron, the distinguished journalist was very seriously injured while covering a war story in India. He now has a plastic heart complex, with artificial

valve and pacemaker.

Before presenting the awards, Sir Geoffrey Jackson emphasised that the judging of the competition was 'no rubber stamping performance.'

He said that one of his co-judges, Danny Hearn, had said how impressed he was by the way in which the judges agonised over the selection of the winner. 'It is no easy matter to select one person from the nine finalists, all of whom are winners in their own way.'

'The Achievement Award reminds me of the incident in the New Testament, when a group of people cut a hole in the roof to lower one of their friends who was handicapped, to be cured. They must have been very fond of that person.'

'We are all very fond, indeed, of our spastic friends. It is very important that they should know that they have a lot of friends, and are very loved people.'

The cup was presented to Alyn by last year's winner, Ernie Roberts, a severely handicapped spastic from St

Beauty's little piggies bring home the funds

BEAUTY the champion pig owned by Shropshire Spastics Society has been hogging all the limelight again. She's been raising money for spastics the only way she knows how—by having babies.

The latest litter—her seventh—has been sold at a profit of £119. But already the shameless porker is well on her way to producing litter number eight.

Altogether she has produced nearly 100 offspring, making more than £300 profit.

Holiday home at Skegness

A SEASIDE holiday bungalow at Skegness, Lincolnshire, is to open on Easter Saturday, April 17, and will provide accommodation throughout the year for spastic people and their families—or just parents who need a break from the care of handicapped children.

The bungalow, purchased by the Midlands Regional Coordinating Committee, will be run by the Skegness and District Spastics Society on behalf of the Region.

First priority in bookings will go to groups in the Midland Region, then to other local groups of the Society and finally to outside organisations for the handicapped.

Mirrors reflect Friends' care

IN only nine months the Friends of Chiltern House, Oxford, have raised enough money for mirrors in all the bedrooms at the centre and some crockery and cutlery specially designed for use by the disabled.

The money for these items was raised by an energetic committee of 10 people. It included £110 from a Wine and Cheese party and a further £175 at a village dance in Stonesfield. This April, a coffee evening and bring and buy sale will be held to raise further funds for the centre.

Chiltern House is a short-stay centre catering for severely handicapped people over the age of 14 from all parts of the country.

Standards of child health falling?

TWO reports published by Margaret and Arthur Wynn for the Child Poverty Action Group suggest that Britain is falling behind other developed countries in standards of child health.

Rising Infant Mortality points out that more babies under one year died in Britain from June to October 1975 than in the corresponding months of 1974.

The percentage of deaths is now higher than in Finland, France and Japan, all countries which have greatly improved their child health services in recent years.

The other report *Must These Babies Die of Cold?* traces an alarming increase in infant mortality in Britain during the winter compared with countries like Finland which have similar housing shortages and a much harsher climate.

Figures suggest that many of these deaths are caused by inadequately heated bedrooms. Most at risk are single-parent families and those from the lowest social class—the people least able to afford extra heating.

Both reports also point out that for every child who dies several are ill and recover, but they may be permanently affected by chronic illness and handicap.

question: if they can conquer their disabilities in this way, what contribution could they make to commerce and industry?

'The lesson for enlightened management is rapidly being learned as more handicapped people are being allowed to take their place in the offices and production plants of Britain.'

'But not nearly enough, and I call on our industrial leaders to make available more opportunities for handicapped people to prove to society that having beaten their own disabilities, they can make as great a success of the relatively less demanding physical challenge of a weekday job.'

The only Scottish spastic among the finalists, Robert Pratt, said he would go back to Scotland that night carrying with him a treasure he would keep all his life.

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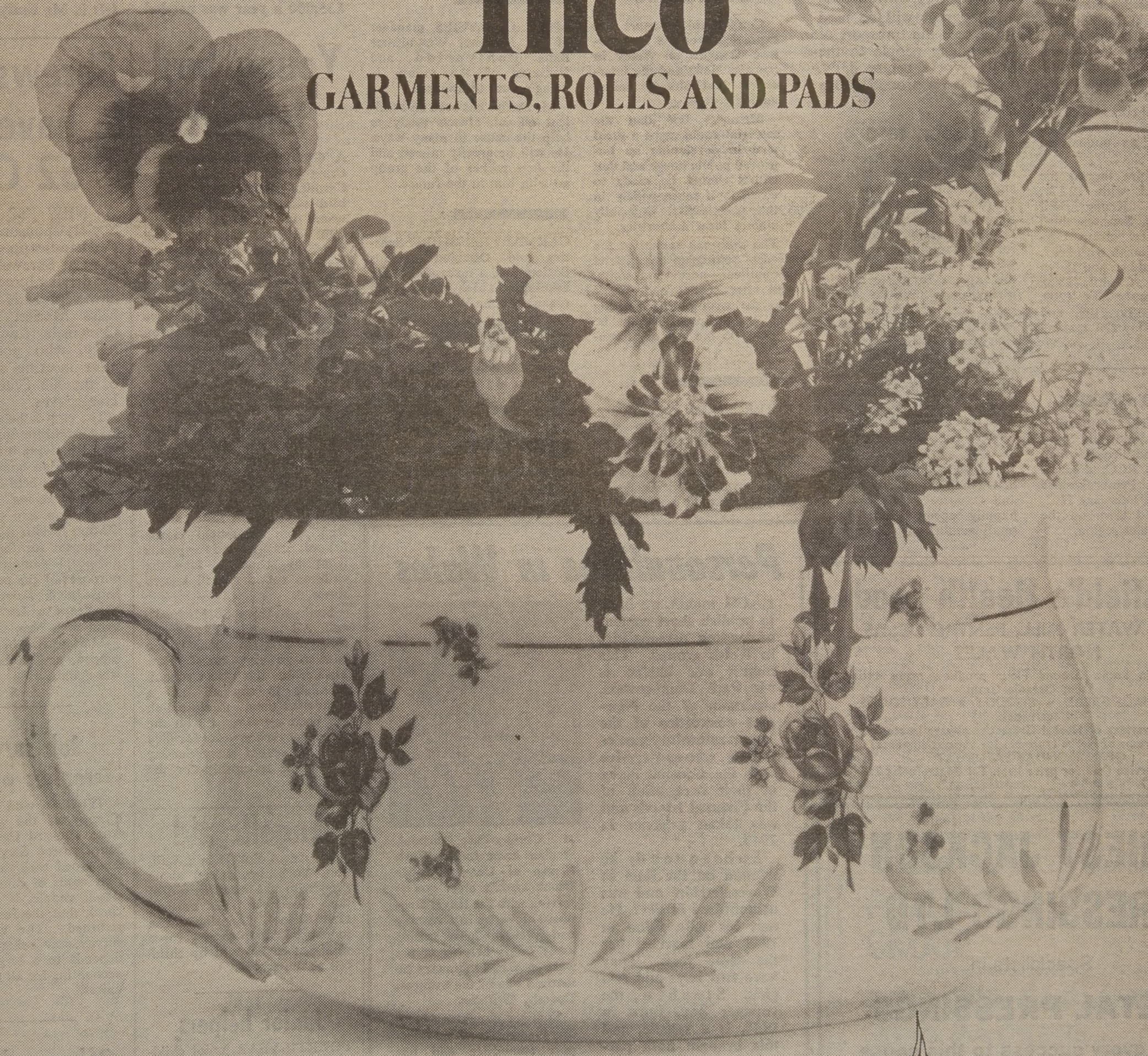
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Throw in ideas for rugby ball

A VERY special rugby ball, signed by the Welsh, English and Scottish national squads, is circulating in Wales.

The ball was given to the Cardiff group by a patron, and Mrs Dorothy Cottle, chairman and Youth Organiser John Roberts felt that a ball signed by all the national squads would be far more valuable than one signed by just the Welsh squad. The ball has now been sent to Ireland to be signed by the Irish players.

If anyone has any ideas on how to raise the maximum amount for the ball, Mrs Cottle and John Roberts would be pleased to hear from them.

Profits from soaring sales

SALES in the Homework Section were quadrupled in 1975 compared with the previous year, and it is hardly surprising that manager Arthur Dobson and his wife are delighted with the progress which has been made in Wales.

This increased enthusiasm not only brought £1,650 profits to local groups in the Region but also enabled the Homework Section to maintain the employment of home-bound spastics. The Society's first ever residential course for four Welsh spastics at Longfields, Swansea, was an unqualified success.

Monmouthshire topped the sales in 1975 with £2,171, followed by Kenfig Hill (£1,027), with Swansea third with £821, new group Carmarthenshire fourth with £697, fifth were Rhuddlan and Delyn (£335), sixth Cardiff £320, seventh Pembrokehire £209, eighth Caerphilly £108, and ninth Colwyn Bay £96, making a total of £5,788.

Visit to groups

MR J. O. WILLIAMS, treasurer of Monmouthshire Spastics Society, and vice-chairman of the Wales RCC, made a visit to the Pembrokeshire local group on February 11.

He addressed them on the aims of the Wales region.



WINDOW ON WALES
by Bill Paton

Cash grant for hard-up group

THE Welsh Regional fund, set up a few years ago to assist groups in need of financial assistance for any particular project, is not being allowed to remain idle in the bank. Two groups—Swansea and Cwmbran—were given substantial grants last year to enable them to meet deficiencies on units.

At the tenth meeting of the Wales Regional Council held at Newtown, attended by representatives of nearly all the groups in the principality, further aid in the form of a £500 grant was given to the Caerphilly Society, which has run into money difficulties.

The grant will be used to finance the transport of four young people to the Sully Works centre daily, which costs around £30 a week.

Good case

Chairman Trevor Rees, vice-chairman Gwilym Williams and Cardiff chairman Mrs Dorothy Cottle, as well as the Senior Regional Officer Emlyn Davies, put up a good case for the Caerphilly group who will at least be able to meet the expense for three months, giving them time to supplement their funds and also assuring the attendance of the four spastics at the centre.

And talking of money, the Pontypridd group has shown the right spirit by donating £1,000 to the Regional fund which treasurer R. A. May, Cardiff, reported now stood at £6,306.

Not so good news was the SRO's report that the Barry and Penarth Society had unhappily become defunct, but a small number of people, styl-

ing themselves as the Friends of Mena House Spastic Hostel, Penarth, had come forward and expressed a wish to help the hostel.

The SRO spoke of a highly successful meeting at Aberystwyth to establish a group there, 18 people having volunteered to sit on a steering committee. A further meeting is to be held at Aberaeron shortly.

Our feature

Considerable pleasure was expressed over the new feature 'Window on Wales' in Spastics News and the interest it had already raised among groups.

Members felt that the material could assist a great deal in developing an improved public image and that efforts should be made to circulate it more widely in the principality, especially among local authorities.

The chairman spoke for the need of setting up two district committees—north and south, and after some discussion it was the wish of the meeting that the proposal should be referred to the groups to consider.

PETER MORT, son of Pontypridd and District group secretary E. G. Mort, and Mrs Mort, recently took part in a chess tournament for handicapped people at St Leonards-on-Sea, where the Marlborough



Hotel is adapted to and sympathetic towards the needs of handicapped people.

The management went to considerable expense to advertise the competition, but it was not very well supported. An excellent party gave much pleasure and it was good to find an hotel where wheelchair ridden people could largely fend for themselves.

DAVID WILLIAMS, of Rhydyfelin, who has been very successful in spastics athletics, recently underwent an operation which it is hoped will improve his mobility.

MR T. G. DAVIES, manager of the National Westminster Bank, Pontypridd, and treasurer of the group, is being moved to Swansea.

Mr Davies has been an excellent official, always ready to help the cause in many ways. He will be greatly missed and the best wishes of the group go with him in the future.

CARMARTHENSHIRE Spastics and Disabled Persons Society held a successful coffee evening at which Welsh youth organiser John Roberts showed the film 'The right to work.' This was followed by a talk from the SRO Emlyn Davies.

Main benefit of the evening was that a great many people offered to help the Society with future fund raising events.

MR STANLEY JOHNS, the popular senior instructor at Sully Works Centre, has died.

They played soccer for Swansea

A CHARITY soccer match between BP Llandarcy and an invitation side raised £105 for the Swansea and District Spastic Association, which was handed over by BP club's chairman, Mr W. Cossins, to Mr T. G. John, a founder-member of the Swansea Association.

Mr John, returning thanks, said donations like this were vitally important to keep the Association functioning in face of spiralling costs. Over £35,000 a year was needed

to keep the Association's centre at West Cross going and they had to find more than half of this money.

Senior Regional Officer for Wales, Emlyn Davies, also spoke and explained how closely the Society worked with local groups like that of Swansea.

Our picture shows Mr Cossins handing over the cheque. On the extreme left is Mr Emlyn Davies.

Young bird fanciers

A GROUP of children from Craig-y-Parc school, near Cardiff, paid a visit to the bird sanctuary at Slimbridge where it was possible to get into some of the hides and watch through binoculars the large variety of birds.

A project is going forward on wildfowl in one of the classes and the children have written for further information on the 'Adopt a Duck' scheme with a view to the adoption of a duck by the class.

A weekly shopping expedition for the children in Albany road has been made possible through the help and co-operation of the Cardiff Voluntary Community Service and Miss Sarah Ward, the Youth and Education organiser. As a result Sister Winifred, from Heathfield House School, has arranged for pupils from the school to take the children round a well known stores.

Students from St Michael's and All Angels Theological College arranged a visit to the pantomime at Cardiff New Theatre for the whole school. Needless to say all had a wonderful time. A close link has been maintained with the students over the years for they visit the school every Sunday to provide friendship for the children.

Shrewsbury to have new '62 Club

A NEW '62 Club—the Society-sponsored clubs for the handicapped—is being born at Shrewsbury. And the driving force behind the new venture is 22-year-old Miss Marian Bowen, of Crowmele Lane, Shrewsbury, who got the idea after meeting the founder of the '62 Clubs, Mr Bill Hargreaves.

The club is being backed by the Shropshire Spastics Society who are giving it financial support. Marian hopes that meetings will be held fortnightly.

All kinds of handicapped people can join the club, but Marian feels it will have special appeal for those living in old people's homes. One of the purposes of the new club is to help break down the social handicaps which go hand in hand with physical handicaps.

Marian is herself handicapped, and is confined to a wheelchair.

Job survey: replies please

ANYBODY who has received a copy of the questionnaire from Howard Capelin of the Employment Service Agency, concerned with the rehabilitation needs of disabled professional people, is requested to check that the form has been returned. The value of the survey now being carried out depends to a large extent on accounting for all the questionnaires.

Angelic aid

THE Angel Folk Club, Baildon, Yorkshire, raised about £250 with a concert in aid of the Society's Hawksworth Hall School, Guiseley. The money will help to pay for a mini-bus to be used by children at the school.

Junior helpers

FOURTH-YEAR junior children at Abbey Primary School, Thamesmead, London, have presented £108 to The Spastics Society. The money was raised during four weeks by 40 pupils at the school, who organised competitions, published a magazine and took part in a sponsored silence.

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Personalities in Wales

EACH month we hope to publish short cameos of leading personalities in Welsh groups. This month our choice is Mr Paul Dombrowski, chairman of the Newport committee of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society, who saw service with the German Navy in their occupation of the Channel Islands and was taken prisoner in 1945.

Subsequently he worked on the land in Worcestershire and was demobilised in 1947. He met his wife Edna in 1949 and married her the same year. They have two boys and two girls. Stephen, the younger boy, born in 1954, is a spastic, and this brought both parents in touch with The Spastics Society.

They joined the Monmouthshire group and have been keen workers ever since, as indeed have the whole family. After 10 years



at Craig-y-Parc school, Stephen came to the Work Centre at Cwmbran. Mr Dombrowski's elder son is serving with the Royal Regiment of Wales in Germany and when on leave spends many hours helping at the work centre. In January he married one of the trainees, Dorothy Griffiths.

Younger daughter Christine is secretary of the Newport committee and has raised many hundreds of pounds for the cause by her own efforts. Mrs Dombrowski is also a tireless worker.

It is people like these who are the very backbone of the Society.

Community role in long-stay hospitals

THE One-to-One group is organising a conference entitled 'Community participation in the long stay hospitals', at the Kings Fund Centre, Nutford Place, London, on Friday, March 19.

There will be three main speakers. Dr McKibben, Consultant Psychiatrist at Turner Village Hospital, Colchester, will speak on the potential of the One-to-One concept with reference to long term volunteering in the mental handicap hospital. Margaret Buchan, Director of Recreational Therapy and VHO at St Margaret's Hospital Birmingham, will speak on the value of the One-to-One Day as a means of recruiting volunteers. And a third speaker, as yet not decided upon, will speak on the philosophy of the One-to-One project and the structure of One-to-One Day.

One-to-One is a project which aims to improve the lives of the mentally handicapped in long stay hospitals by encouraging people from their local communities to help out with the work of the hospital on a volunteer basis.

A new book 'One-to-One, an experiment in community participation in the long stay hospital,' which is sponsored by the Gatsby Charitable Fund, the Kings Fund Centre and the Inger Action Trust, will be introduced at the conference.



'Golden oldies' of Cornwall

THE members of St Austell Darby and Joan Club, in Cornwall, are real golden oldies. On February 14 they clubbed together to give a party for local spastics.

Says Mrs Pat Beazley, Secretary of the St Austell and District Committee of Cornwall Spastics Society: 'The members of the Darby and Joan Club provided all the food, which was marvellous. They also provided entertainment, with the youngest performer—asked in specially—only 11-years-old, and the eldest 75.'

Afterwards spastics and D. and J. members joined in a dance. It's the second year the Darby and Joan Club has organised the party.

Pupils worked hard for their donation

MR JOE PEARLSON, Chairman of the Peterborough Spastics Society, holds up a cheque for £111, presented to him by pupils of Stanground Comprehensive School. The money was raised by 200 members of the school's Peter House, with a variety of events, including a sponsored silence, sponsored

walk, lunch-hour discos and a five-a-side football tournament. They also sold cakes and toffees and ran competitions.

The cheque was handed over by house captains Sandra Goddard and Matthew Weedon, seated on either side of Mr Pearlson.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Citizen and Advertiser.

Helpful book for disabled parents

THE Disabled Living Foundation has added to its list of useful publications **Early Years**—a book for the disabled mother or father and their child. The author is Morigue Cornwell, a physiotherapist who has two young children of her own, and she covers the years from birth until nursery school.

The book contains useful hints for mothers who cannot bend to lift their children, those with weak or unsteady hands, wheelchair parents and those who are blind or deaf. Subjects covered include feeding, bathing, clothes, sleeping, mobility and play, with safety aspects given high priority.

Early Years, by Morigue Cornwell, MCSP, costs £2.50 and is available from the Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London, WC4 8NS.

Study day on technical aids

AIDS for handicapped people are becoming increasingly technical and complex. And electricity is playing a greater than ever part, in taking over where muscle power—or control—leaves off.

For this reason a study day, to examine the latest in electronic wizardry for the disabled, has been organised for April 10 at Bethesda residential special school, at Cheadle, in Cheshire.

The course has been organised by Roger Jefcoate, consultant assessor and lecturer on electronic equipment for severely disabled people. It is designed to cover the application and use of a broad range of electrical, electronic and other technical aids.

It is essentially a practical course. There will be plenty of opportunity to try out the equipment demonstrated, and there will be a small exhibition of aids.

Fee for the course is £4.50.

'Agonising' problems of young spastics

THE need for the public to accept the fact that handicapped people had the same right to sexual fulfilment as ordinary people, and that helping them to achieve this satisfaction was a proper activity for those who were responsible for them, was referred to by Mr James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, when he addressed a meeting in Manchester on February 25.

Mr Loring was speaking to a group of volunteers, social workers and professionals concerned with the care of the handicapped at Boyd House, Upper Park Street, Manchester, on 'The Problems of Adolescent Spastics'.

He said that normal adolescents experienced 'agonising' feelings and problems during the difficult time of growing to maturity. These were intensified among handicapped people of the same age who had very great problems.

There were two crucial needs in adolescence—the opportunity for a real job, and the chance to make relationships with the opposite sex. The handicapped adolescent was no different. He, too, needed both these things. 'Many handi-

capped people prefer the most deadly routine work, provided it is paid for and expected within a time limit by an outside firm, rather than the most beautiful creative work which is put away in a cupboard until a buyer comes along,' Mr Loring said.

The second need was to be able to feel sure of being a man or a woman. For most adolescents uncertainty here was a temporary phase. However, for the handicapped adolescent there was the shock of facing that he or she will not change for the better, but will always have an ungainly walk, be confined to a chair, or have the sort of speech and grimaces that made other people stare.

There were many difficulties for the handicapped in forming meaningful sexual relationships. It was important that the public should try to develop insights into their own feelings about handicapped people and to recognise how important these attitudes were when they were trying to help. It was very easy to reinforce inappropriate behaviour in handicapped people rather than help them towards a true maturity.



THE proceeds of last year's **Horsham, Sussex, Festival**, have been presented to the **Society's Ingfield Manor School**. This £225 boost has enabled the school to buy a freezer.

Picturee shows Festival President John Fisher and Treasurer John Hearne giving the cheque to Mrs Rosemary Siddles, the school's new headmistress.

Mrs Siddles, who took over the school at the start of the spring term, comes

from **Birmingham**, where she was a lecturer in education at **Westhill College**. Previously she was deputy head at a school for handicapped children and has always worked with the handicapped. Her husband John is at **Bourneville School of Art, Birmingham**, and they have a seven-year-old son.

Picture by courtesy of West Sussex County Times.



New car runs on toddler power

IT takes nerve to put a new type of vehicle through its paces, as four-year-old **Elouise Smith**, of **Heysham, Lancashire**, discovered. She was chosen as test driver for the "Scamp" children's play car, which is the latest toddler powered vehicle to move into the stable at **Morcambe, Lancaster** and district toy library for handicapped children. This model was presented by a local garage company. Chairman of the Toy

Library, Mrs **Nesta Parkin**, said the "Scamp" was a very welcome addition to their stock.

Pictured (left to right) are Mr **Graham Hill**, general manager of the garage firm, Dr **Bridie Wilson**, president of the toy library, Mrs **Parkin**, Mrs **Margaret Guttridge**, secretary, and Mrs **Jean Smith**, **Elouise's** mother.

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Duchess of Gloucester at Croydon



LINDA HOCKLEY was only too happy to demonstrate the assembly work she carries out at the Centre. The Duchess was being escorted by the manager Mr Jack Gooch.



MISS JENNY KENYON, craft instructor at the Croydon work centre, explains to the Duchess about the various handicrafts undertaken there.

Mrs Castle wants new look for NHS glasses

IT SEEMS that people just don't make passes at people who wear National Health Service glasses, and Social Services Secretary Mrs Barbara Castle feels that NHS specs have fallen way behind the times. 'I believe the time has come to improve the range of NHS frames,' she told a conference on February 11.

The problem of putting up with the old fashioned and austere NHS frames is something which has special importance for disabled people. Firstly they are more likely to have visual problems which make glasses necessary. Secondly because so many are on low fixed incomes, they are more likely to opt for the cheaper glasses.

Says Mrs Castle: 'There has been a growing realisation—and one which I command wholeheartedly—that spectacles are not just clinical appliances but an integral part of the wearer's appearance, I might almost say personality.'

But the range of frames available within the NHS has scarcely changed at all. More people chose private frames, and only 30 per cent of NHS patients opted for NHS ones.

Every local group for spastics welcomes new volunteers. Could YOU help? Your local group is:

All because she saw 'Joey' film

IT all began when the Duchess of Gloucester saw the film 'Joey,' the BBC television documentary which told the life story of Joey Deacon, a severely handicapped spastic who has lived most of his life at St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham. (You can read more about him in a special feature on Page 6 of *Spastics News*).

The Duchess was so impressed with the film that she asked to meet members of the cast, including John Prasher, who plays Joey as a young man. From that meeting sprang the idea for her visit to the Croydon Spastics Society's Bramley Hill work centre, where John works.

The visit took place in February. The Duchess met the 50 men and women who are employed at Bramley Hill, turning out about £7,000 worth of goods annually. She also visited Rutherford, the Croydon group's children's centre.

She saw children at work, learning to speak and walk, and at play in their classrooms. She also talked with members of staff about the work being done there.



LITTLE Nicola Selwood from Rutherford, samples the sweet smell of the Duchess's bouquet.



JOHN PRASHER, the man who played a leading role in the film "Joey" meets the Duchess in his working environment.

Pictures by courtesy of the Croydon Advertiser.

Soaring power bills and the disabled

DISABLED people living on supplementary benefits will not now have to worry about the gas or electricity being disconnected if they fail to pay their fuel bills. The Supplementary Benefits Commission and fuel authorities have got together to avoid disconnections where hardship would result.

Following talks with the Electricity Council and the British Gas Corporation, the Commission has reached an agreement which enables it to make payments in respect of unpaid bills, which are deducted from a person's supplementary benefit.

People not receiving supplementary benefit, but who are entitled to it, will also be helped. They will receive a contribution towards the costs of their fuel bills.

Many a mickle...

SMALL though they be, it is the smaller efforts which touch the heart—and which sometimes achieve the most surprising results. In Scotland, for instance, a small dance in Aberdeen realised some £60; a sponsored walk by six sailors from HMS Reclaim between

Fort William and Dundee (more than 100 miles across mountainous countryside) yielded £38.20; and a jumble sale organised by three Greenock tots, Mhairi Hansen, 9, her sister Christine, 7, and their friend Irene Paton, aged 5, gained £3.23 for Scottish spastics.

Windows windfall from shopkeepers

DORSET Spastics Society has received over £1,300 in less than a year, thanks to the combined efforts of two local shopkeepers. Each of these traders, Frys and Jones, have given up one shop window for the display and sale of goods in aid of spastics.

Minister encourages disabled to 'claim the lot'

MISUNDERSTANDINGS have arisen over the various cash allowances made to disabled people by the Government, according to the Minister for the Disabled, Mr Alfred Morris.

'You will be aware of the

new cash benefits we have made for the chronically sick and disabled—the Attendance Allowance, the Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension and the Mobility Allowance,' he said while opening a new centre in Birmingham.

'Many people have wrongly

assumed that if they are paid say an Attendance Allowance then they are unqualified for other allowances. This is of course quite erroneous.

'One person can at the same time be entitled to the Attendance Allowance, Non Contributory Invalidity Pension and

LIFE with a severely handicapped spastic was the subject of the first talk in the new BBC2 Sunday evening series 'The Light of Experience.' It was given by Archie Hill, who described his relationship with his 26-year-old cerebral palsied stepson. Rarely can a TV programme have been so moving.

'As we wait for Barry to die...'

Mr Hill told viewers about the first 30 'wasted' years of his own life, spent 'on the outside looking in' at things to envy. The idea of God seemed too remote from his way of life to concern him much and it was only recently that he accepted God as being real. 'I was filled with loathing, hatred and contempt for this God. . . . A hatred more intense than I have ever experienced. . . . It came about because of my 26-year-old stepson, born to my wife's first marriage, 100 per cent physically and mentally handicapped. . . . If there is a God, then when He made my wife's son, His hands trembled with some dark malice.'

The stepson, Barry, cannot walk, talk, toilet, feed or do anything for himself. Mr Hill estimates that his wife has changed 35,000 nappies in Barry's lifetime and has only recently learned that disposable nappies are available.

Now the family has discovered that Barry has cancer. 'So we take each day at a time and wait for him to die.'

Mr Hill spoke of his wife's devotion to her elder son. 'I had never met love like this before. My ideas of love had been so shallow.'

He learnt to share in this love for Barry—a different quality of love from the delight in his healthy younger son, but just as deeply felt.

'I have learned rich things from Barry. Things I could never have learned from Bible or pulpit or churches. I think I will treasure, always, the trust and affection he had for me. I will remember always the way his eyes lit up as I walked towards him. . . . I think of those years that I have wasted and about people whom I have hurt and measure myself against Barry's physically helpless existence and know then that his has been the purer life. . . . He has not known hate or malice, greed or spite or self-pity. And from his helplessness I find a strength and tenacity of purpose filling me up. Now, I do not seek to question 'God's Will' but I put my trust in the secret woman Nature and know that the feeling of heart-break in the heart of things is but a moment's human hesitation on the threshold of a deep, serene, purposeful unknown. And thinking so, I almost touch that peace which surpasses understanding.'

the Mobility Allowance, plus all the benefits under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act and other legislations where appropriate.

'I want to encourage people to come forward and claim all the benefits to which they are entitled.'